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NUMBER OF BIRTHS PER ANNUM FOR EVERY THOUSAND FEMALES BETWEEN
15 AND 50.

City.	Very Poor Districts.	Poor Districts.	Comfortable Districts.	Very Comfortable Districts.	Rich Districts.	Very Rich Districts.
Paris. (1889-93).....	108	95	72	65	53	34
Paris. (1889-93. Month of April).....	107	92	69	63	50	33
Berlin. (1886-94).....	157	129	114	96	93	47
Vienna. (1890-94).....	200	164	155	153	107	71
London. (1881-90).....	147	140	107	107	87	63

The Paris rates were calculated on the births in April alone to exclude any error introduced by the annual migration from the richer districts. The check between these figures and those for the whole year is noteworthy.

Such a classification as that upon which these calculations are based is open to the objection that the population studied may differ in other respects than their prosperity. For instance, the very fact that the richest districts are defined as the ones having the greatest number of persons engaged in domestic service, implies a large proportion of unmarried persons, and, therefore, a lower birth rate than the normal. Nevertheless the figures are so harmonious, and the differences between the classes of districts is so great, that Bertillon may be said to have added a strong piece of evidence to the theory of the inverse ratio of birth rates and prosperity.

C.-E. A. WINSLOW.

STATISTICS OF IMMIGRATION.

Beginning with July 1, 1898, a new system of collecting and tabulating statistics of immigration to the United States was put into operation by the Immigration Bureau of the Treasury Department. The results of the new system during the first year of its existence have recently been published in the report of the Commissioner-General for the fiscal year 1899.

The principal feature of the new system is that each immigrant is tabulated as to nativity by race instead of by the country of his

later residence or political allegiance. The circular of instructions issued to the commissioners at the various ports says of this change: "This is not intended to be an ethnological classification. It is not intended as a history of the immigrant's antecedents but as a clue to what will be his immediate future after he has landed. It is merely a grouping together, as far as it seems practicable to do so, of people who maintain recognized communities in the various parts of this country where they settle, who have the same attitudes or industrial capacities or who are found here identified with certain occupations."

Whenever an immigrant does not clearly belong to a specially designated "race" he is to be classed with those of the same language or religion. The "mother tongue" or "dialect" is the language, dialect or form of speech which the immigrant first learned from his parents as a child in his own home.

Another new feature is a table of immigrants by religions. The only forms of faith tabulated are Brahmin and Buddhist, Greek Catholic, Roman Catholic, Israelite, Mohammedan, and miscellaneous. The heading "miscellaneous," according to the above mentioned circular of instructions, is intended to cover any form of religion not enumerated elsewhere, and also all cases where it is "impossible or inexpedient to obtain this information." I am informed that "inexpedient" refers to cases where immigrants are unwilling to answer questions in regard to their religion. Inspectors are instructed not to press the matter under such circumstances.

Another column has been added to the manifest, *viz.*, "color." It does not appear in the *Report of the Commissioner-General*, except that "African" now comprises black Africans. The classification by color is designed to secure racial distinctions which would otherwise not be apparent, and has special reference to the negro races. All aliens clearly of negro blood are to be registered as black. I understand the classification is not carried in practice beyond this point, but, if in any cases of persons other than negroes it is desirable to give the color, the usual division into five colors is to be followed.

It is to be observed that while nearly all immigration statistics have a large factor of possible error (owing to being based on the statements of the immigrants themselves), yet the new classification is much more valuable for many purposes than the old. For example, although Russian Jews and German Jews differ from each other they

differ still more from the Russians and the Germans, and for the first time it is possible to tell the total Hebrew immigration. Again, while the average illiteracy of Austro-Hungarians last year was 25.2 per cent, the Bohemians show only 3.3 per cent; and while the average illiteracy of all Italians was over 53 per cent we find that of Northern Italians (*i. e.*, those from Tuscany, Emilia, Liguria, Venice, Lombardy, Piedmont, and natives resident in other countries) to be only 11.4 per cent.

Again the new classification is important in connection with destination of immigrants in this country and their occupation.

The old classification by political states is given also in this year's report for purposes of comparison. It should be retained in the future, because questions may come up under treaties or in other legal and political relations which would be much illumined by the political grouping. The *Report of the Commissioner-General* shows also the relation between the old classification and the new by means of a table giving the numbers of the several races coming from the various political divisions. In so far as immigrants may be trusted to give their race correctly this table throws light on the emmigration of citizens of one country through the ports of another country after a temporary residence in the latter. Of course such a table does not give accurate results as to Canada. Practically all the immigration from British North America, as given in the table, is of British races with the exception of 522 Japanese.

PRESCOTT F. HALL.

PAUPER FAMILY HISTORIES.

The *Second Annual Report of the Pauper Institutions Trustees of the City of Boston for the year ending Jan. 31, 1899*, contains (pages 21-23) genealogical tables of six pauper families of Boston. The first table is the "Family History of A. B. C. and Half-Sister D. E." carried into three generations. A. B. C.'s father, and a step-mother, and his mother, with a step-father, all were under care of the Overseers of the Poor. Three of the four had been in the almshouse, and two died there. One of these had been in a reformatory. Of the eight children, only three lived long enough to be included in this table. These have been intemperate, receiving aid from the Overseers. A. B. C. and D. E. are the only ones now living; they